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Examiner Initiated Interview Summary

In response to the RCE filed on 6/16/10, the Examiner initiated an interview with Mr. John Murtaugh on 6/29/10 to discuss the possibility of allowance with an Examiner Amendment.

Independent claim 6 is deemed unpatentable over a combination of references, for example Gross (US 5,882,516) or Falkvall (US 5,730,712) in view of Fitzgerald (US 4,226,378) or Baudet (US 4,038,190). The limitation of joining the two shell portions is taught by the secondary references and one would use this teaching to combine because this makes the assembly of the hollow fiber membrane module easier.

Accordingly, it was agreed that claim 6 and all claims depending from claim 6 would be cancelled. Also cancelled will be the withdrawn independent claim 28 and claims depending from claims 28.

Independent claims 10, 14, 36 and all claims depending therefrom will be allowed. This would require rejoining some of the withdrawn claims.

Withdrawn method claims 33 and 34 will be rejoined and amended with subject matter from claims 31 and 32, and claims 31 and 32 will be cancelled. Claim 35 also will be rejoined and allowed.

The applicant is not required to submit a summary of this interview.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S. Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on 571-272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Krishnan S Menon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797